

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1631

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR GV FR

SUBJECT : POSSIBLE BREAK-THROUGH IN FRANCO-GUINEAN RELATIONS

REFERENCE : A. CONAKRY 1102, B. PARIS 19887, C. PARIS 25229

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED ON RELIABLE AND HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT PROSPECTS APPEAR BRIGHTER NOW THAN EVER BEFORE FOR EARLY BREAK-THROUGH IN FRANCO-GUINEAN RELATIONS.

2. LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THIS CONNECTION WAS VISIT TO BUINEA BY ANDRE LEWIN, FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, NOW ON ASSIGNMENT WITH UN AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM. LEWIN, TRAVELING AS UN OFFICIAL, ARRIVED CONAKRY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, BEARING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT GISCARD. IN MEETING WITH GUINEAN POLITICAL BUREAU, LEWIN PRESENTED FRENCH VIEWS ON RELATIONS AND ALSO PROPOSED COMMUNIQUE WHICH HE DRAFTED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF VIEWS BOTH SIDES. POLITICAL BUREAU THEN HELD SERIES OF LONG MEETINGS TO DEVELOP GUINEA'S POSITION AND RESPONSE. LEWIN LEFT CONAKRY OCTOBER 31 WITH SEKOU TOURE'S REPLY TO GISCARD LETTER AND GUINEAN INDICATION ON LANGUAGE IT WOULD CONSIDER ACCEPTABLE IN COMMUNIQUE. BALL IS NOW IN FRENCH COURT.

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3. PRINCIPAL STUMBLING BLOCK TO IMPROVED RELATIONS HAS BEEN GUINEA'S DESIRE THAT FRANCE MAKE A STATEMENT SIMILAR TO THAT MADE BY GERMANS ACKNOWLEDGING GUILT OF ITS CITIZENS FOR COMPLICITY IN 1970 INVASION. THIS UNACCEPTABLE TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT. EFFORT, THEREFORE, IS TO FIND SOME FORMULA TO WHICH BOTH SIDES CAN AGREE. MEANWHILE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN ADDITIONAL STEPS IN DIRECTION OF SATISFYING GUINEA'S DEMANDS. IT DECIDED THAT GUINEAN CITIZENS LIVING IN FRANCE WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED CONTINUE TO PUBLICIZE ATTACKS AGAINST GUINEA GOVERNMENT OR ENGAGE IN OTHER POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. ALSO ACTUAL TRANSFER HAS NOW BEEN MADE OF SOME FUNDS IN PAYMENT OF PENSIONS TO GUINEAN VETERANS.

4. SINCE PRINCIPALS ARE NOW DIRECTLY IN CONTACT AND MAIN PROBLEM IS THAT OF AGREEING ON TEXT OF PROPOSED COMMUNIQUE, IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED IN MATTER OF WEEKS WHICH WOULD ALLOW RELEASE OF FRENCH PRISONERS AND RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

5. REQUEST THIS INFORMATION BE VERY CLOSELY HELD SINCE ANY OUTSIDE DISCUSSION COULD COMPROMISE SOURCE.

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